

The Trio

"Pilot"

Written by: Narissa Carter

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. NYLA'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Three young girls are sitting at a table eating watermelon together. The girls are CHANTEL, 11, NYLA, 7, and SIMONE, 6.

SIMONE
(eating the watermelon)
This watermelon is good.

NYLA
It sure is.

CHANTEL
Y'all better not eat the seeds.

NYLA
What if we swallow one by accident?

CHANTEL
If you swallow a seed you will wake up pregnant.

NYLA
You're just telling stories.

CHANTEL
No, I'm not, because my mama told me that.

NYLA
Whatever.

SIMONE
Let's play a game.

CHANTEL
What kind of game?

SIMONE
Let's play what do you wanna be when you grow up.

NYLA
Okay.

CHANTEL
Simone, what do you want to be when
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHANTEL (CONT'D)
you grow up?

SIMONE
I want to be a police officer.

Chantel and Nyla laugh at Simone.

CHANTEL
That's a man's job.

SIMONE
No, it's not, women can be police officers too.

NYLA
Chantel, what do you want to be when you grow up?

CHANTEL
I want to be a model.

NYLA
That's cool.

SIMONE
Nyla, what do you want to be?

NYLA
I want to be a singer like Beyoncé.

CHANTEL
(rolls her eyes)
Everybody wants to be Beyoncé.

SIMONE
I hope all our dreams come true.

CHANTEL
Me too.

NYLA
My Pastor always says "What God has for you, is for you".

CUT TO OPENING:

ACT ONE

SUBTITLE FADES IN: 25 Years Later

EXT. PARKING LOT - PRESENT DAY

A 2021 Range Rover pulls up to an empty parking spot in front of a building.

Now an adult NYLA WASHINGTON, 25, she's a screenwriter at a big production company, and she's a bit of a "Jesus freak", she steps out of the Range Rover car carrying a laptop case.

NYLA (V.O.)

Well, I didn't become a singer, but I became one of the baddest bitches in filmmaking.

Nyla enters the building.

INT. IMAGINETALE STUDIOS - FRONT DESK - DAY

IMAGINETALE STUDIOS is a movie production company. Nyla is walking through the building like she's a boss, and she goes to the front desk.

DONNA, 45, the receptionist smiles at Nyla.

DONNA

Good morning Ms. Washington.

NYLA

Good morning Mrs. Donna, do you have any messages for me?

DONNA

Yes, some stalker lady name Linda Anderson keeps showing up here asking would I give her screenplay to you.

NYLA

Did you tell her that we don't accept unsolicited material?

DONNA

I did tell her that, but she refused to leave so I called security on her ass.

NYLA

I mean I understand her because it
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYLA (CONT'D)
took me years to break into the
industry.

DONNA
Well, look at you now girl.

Nyla sings some of the lyrics from the song "Ballin".

NYLA
(singing)
I put the new Forgis on the jeep.

DONNA
Alright, now Roddy Rich.

NYLA
Alright, Mrs. Donna, I'll catch you
later.

DONNA
See ya.

Nyla walks off, and she walks down a hallway that leads to
the writer's room, and then she enters.

INT. IMAGINETALE STUDIOS - WRITERS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Some WRITERS are already seated at the table with their
laptops out, standing at the whiteboard placing index cards
on the board is the WRITER'S PA.

Nyla takes a seat at the table.

NYLA
(jokingly)
Did you guys start without me?

WRITER #1
We were thinking about it.

NYLA
Well did you all come up with any
ideas while I was gone?

WRITER #1
Well, there is a concern about the
show not having any LGBTQ
representation in it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYLA

Why is that a concern?

WRITER #2

Well, people want to watch TV shows where they see themselves represented.

NYLA

(annoyed)

Every show doesn't have to have people from the LGTBQ community in it.

WRITER #3

(defensive)

Nyla if you're homophobic just say that.

NYLA

I'm not homophobic. Listen if you guys want to add a gay character then go right ahead, but when the saints of God start attacking me y'all better have my back.

WRITER #1

We got your back.

WRITER #3

So should the gay character be a girl or a boy?

WRITER #1

I think a gay guy would be dope.

WRITER #3

His name could be Lorenzo.

WRITER #2

Yes, and for short they can call him Zo.

WRITER #1

What do you think Nyla?

Nyla is zoned out, and she's not interested in the topic.

NYLA

(being a suck-up)

I'm on board.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WRITER #3

Well, then guys let's start working on our new character.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN HOUSE - DAY

A for sale sign is seen in front of a nice Mediterranean-style house.

INT. OPEN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHANTEL BROOKS, 27, she's beautiful, and she is a real estate agent. Chantel is showing a CLIENT the living room area of the house.

CHANTEL

As you see this is the living room area, and it's very spacious.

CLIENT

This is nice, my wife always wanted a big living room.

CHANTEL

That's good to hear.

The Client notices the fireplace.

CLIENT

Is the fireplace up to code?

CHANTEL

The fireplace is up to code. This house is inspected three times a month, and no damages have been found.

CLIENT

Man, this is great.

CHANTEL

Are you ready to see the backyard?

CLIENT

Absolutely.

Chantel and the Client exit the house.

EXT. OPEN HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

The backyard has a nice patio, an underground pool and a hot tub.

Chantel and The Client are standing by the poolside.

CHANTEL

This house has a nice underground pool which goes 5 feet, and a hot tub.

CLIENT

Man, this is nice. Can I put my foot in the water?

CHANTEL

(laughs a bit)

Sure.

The Client takes off his shoe and dips his foot in the pool.

CLIENT

Whew! That's cold.

CHANTEL

The hot tub is much warmer.

The Client puts his shoe back on.

CLIENT

So, let's get down to business. I love the house, and I would like to buy it.

CHANTEL

Awesome, well I will contact the owner and we will draw up the paperwork for you.

CLIENT

I have a question.

CHANTEL

I have an answer.

CLIENT

Is it true that y'all real estate agents be having sex with clients to sell houses?

Chantel is taken aback by this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHANTEL

(defensive)

I don't know where you heard that from, but I am a businesswoman and I don't play that shit.

CLIENT

My bad shawty.

CHANTEL

Like I was saying, the owner and I will be in touch with you and your wife.

CLIENT

(nervous)

Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. LABORATORY DISCOVERY - CRIME LAB - DAY

LABORATORY DISCOVERY is a crime lab where Forensic scientists work.

A group of FORENSIC SCIENTISTS is examining latent fingerprints.

On the computer typing up a DNA analysis report is SIMONE KELLER, 25, she's an activist, and one of those women who doesn't take any nonsense.

SIMONE

(to herself)

Alright, my analysis is done.

DONALD HARRIS, 26, is one of those "Annoying Coworkers". that's on every job, he walks up to Simone.

DONALD

Hey Simone, do you have that lab report ready?

SIMONE

I'm about to print it out right now.

DONALD

Did you have someone look over your analysis?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMONE

(annoyed)

Donald, I know how to do my job.

DONALD

Hey, I was just asking.

SIMONE

Well, don't, go harass someone else.

DONALD

I see why you're single.

Donald walks off.

SIMONE

(mumbles to herself)

I see why you're single ugly bastard.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

The diner is not busy at this moment, so it's quiet and peaceful.

EMMANUEL "MANNY" ANDERSON, 28, he's an aspiring writer, but he's stuck working as a waiter. Manny is sitting alone at a table staring at the screen thinking.

ON LAPTOP SCREEN: A screenplay document is open on the screen, but the title page is still blank.

MANNY

(to himself)

What should I name this?

LINDA ANDERSON, 50, she's Manny's mother and the owner of the diner. Linda is wiping down tables where the customers sit.

LINDA

Manny, you need to get back to work.

MANNY

Mama I'm trying to work on my screenplay.

LINDA

Those screenplays aren't paying you, now grab a rag and get to wiping down some tables.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MANNY

Mama no customers have even arrived yet.

LINDA

Manny I have tried to help you out with your screenwriting, and now I'm asking you to help me clean these tables off.

MANNY

Alright, mama.

Manny gets up from the chair, and then he stares around the diner. "An idea just came to mind".

MANNY (CONT'D)

(excited)

Yes! I have an idea.

Manny walks back to the table he was seated at and types the title of his screenplay.

ON LAPTOP SCREEN: The title page of the screenplay is called "The Diner".

Linda walks up behind Manny with a wet rag in her hand, and then she hits him with it in the back of his head.

LINDA

Boy, didn't I tell you to help me clean up?

MANNY

Ouch! Got damn mama.

Linda then places the rag down on a table.

LINDA

(points at the table)

Get to wiping.

Manny begins wiping the table while shaking his head in disappointment.

INT. NYLA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nyla and Chantel are seated on the couch having margaritas.

NYLA

Girl congrats on selling a house
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYLA (CONT'D)
today.

CHANTEL
Thank you, girl.

NYLA
Where is Simone at?

CHANTEL
Girl you know her ass is always late.

NYLA
That's true.

The doorbell RINGS.

CHANTEL
We done spoke her up.

Nyla goes and opens the door revealing Simone standing outside the door.

SIMONE
(excited)
Hey bitches!

NYLA
Girl bye, you're twenty minutes late.

Simone enters.

SIMONE
You can't rush perfection.

NYLA
Yeah, yeah.

Nyla and Simone go to sit on the couch.

CHANTEL
Simone girl I sold a house.

SIMONE
Oh my gosh, congratulations.

CHANTEL
Thank you, girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYLA

(to Chantel)

Girl tell her about your crazy-ass client.

CHANTEL

Oh yeah, so I took my client out to see the backyard and the backyard has an underground pool and stuff, so this fool going to ask me could he dip his foot in the water.

SIMONE

(laughs a bit)

What did you tell him?

CHANTEL

Hell, I told him he could, as long as he bought the house I didn't care.

SIMONE

(curious)

Did he have big feet?

CHANTEL

Girl, I wasn't looking at that man's feet, I was trying to sell a house.

SIMONE

You know what they say about men with big feet.

CHANTEL

Girl, you need some saltpeter to control your sexual appetite.

SIMONE

I'm not a sex addict, I was just saying that they say men with big feet have a big penis.

CHANTEL

You need Jesus.

SIMONE

I already have him.

NYLA

So Simone how are things going at your job?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMONE

Girl I'm about to kill this one guy at my job name Donald.

NYLA

Why?

SIMONE

The bastard keeps trying to check up on me like I don't know how to do my job or something.

NYLA

Is he white?

SIMONE

No, he's black, and that's what makes it worse.

NYLA

Well, you know all black folks ain't kinfolks.

CHANTEL

Girl that man probably has a crush on you.

SIMONE

Girl no he doesn't, because today he told me...

(mocks Donald)

"I see why you single".

NYLA

You need to file a complaint against him.

SIMONE

If he keeps on I'm going to do more than file a complaint.

CHANTEL

We don't need you to catch a case now.

SIMONE

I know how to get rid of the evidence.

CHANTEL

I always knew you people who worked for the government be the ones committing the most crimes.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE - OFFICE - NIGHT

Donald is seated at his office desk and he's on the computer.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN:

Simone's social media profile is shown, and a picture of her in a bikini.

DONALD
(staring at Simone's photo)
Got damn!

Donald unbuckles his pants, and then he places his hand inside his pants and tries to pleasure himself.

DONALD (CONT'D)
(moans)
Oh, Simone!

Donald's cellphone RINGS and Donald quickly takes his hand out of his pants and answers the phone.

DONALD (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hello?

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
Hello, is this Donald Harris?

DONALD
This is he.

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
Hey, Mr. Harris, this is Detective Jason Davison. I work for The Dickerson agency, and I want to offer you a proposition.

DONALD
What kind of proposition?

JASON (V.O.)
Have your team submitted the analysis for the shooting of Daniel Fore?

DONALD
Not yet, but it should be in by tomorrow morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
I need your analysis to match up with
the prosecutors who are over this
case.

DONALD
(confused)
The guy who's being accused of the
crime didn't do it though.

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
That's why I want to pay you \$80,000
to change the analysis to make it look
like he did it.

DONALD
Detective Davison, I don't think this
is a good idea.

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
Listen the guy we have in custody is a
nobody, he sells drugs for a living.

DONALD
Meet me at the diner tomorrow at 6,
and then we'll talk.

DETECTIVE DAVISON (V.O.)
See you then.

The phone call ends, and then Donald stares at the picture of
Simone on the computer screen.

DONALD
(sighs)
You're too good for me.

ACT TWO

INT. IMAGINETALE STUDIOS - WAITING AREA - DAY

Manny has a script in his hand and he's standing at the receptionist's desk waiting patiently.

Donna is too focused on typing on the computer, and then she stops and gazes up at Manny.

DONNA
(irritated)
Sir, what do you need?

MANNY
I need to see Nyla Washington.

DONNA
Do you have an appointment?

MANNY
No, but I need to give her my script.

DONNA
Imaginetale Studios don't accept
unsolicited material.

MANNY
Can you make an exception for me?

DONNA
Do I need to call security?

MANNY
No ma'am.

DONNA
Sir, I suggest that you exit the
premises.

MANNY
This is some bull. You people always
talk about uplifting the black
community but y'all won't even help
others reach success.

DONNA
(unbothered)
Are you done?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MANNY

Man forget this company.

Manny exits the building.

DONNA

(shakes her head)

Everybody wants to be Tyler Perry.

INT. LABORATORY DISCOVERY - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Simone is sitting alone having a cup of coffee and a cream cheese bagel. Donald enters, sees Simone sitting, and then he goes to the table and sits down across from her.

DONALD

Simone, I need to talk to you about something.

SIMONE

What is it Donald Duck?

DONALD

Can you not do that?

SIMONE

I'm just doing what's being done to me by you daily.

DONALD

Look I'm sorry for being an ass to you, but I need your advice about something.

SIMONE

Look at how the tables have turned. What do you need help with?

DONALD

Did you turn in the analysis from the shooting of Daniel Fore?

SIMONE

No, but when I get back to my desk I'm submitting it.

DONALD

Did you get a phone call from Detective Jason Davison last night?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMONE

No.

DONALD

(whispers)

Don't tell anybody this, but I got a call from Detective Davison offering me \$80,000 to change the analysis of the killing of Daniel Fore to match the prosecutor's statements.

SIMONE

What the hell.

DONALD

(still whispering)

They want me to tamper with evidence for they can send an innocent man to jail.

SIMONE

Oh my God! Did you report him?

DONALD

I have no proof of him saying these things, so today I'm meeting up with him at the diner and I'm going to record everything he says.

SIMONE

Do you need backup?

DONALD

I don't think so.

SIMONE

I'm coming with you.

DONALD

No, you're not.

SIMONE

Yes, I am.

DONALD

Fine, but you're staying in the car.

SIMONE

That's fine with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONALD
Thanks for listening.

SIMONE
I'm just glad to hear that you're not
an uncle tom.

Simone sips on her coffee, and Donald stares at her and
shakes his head.

INT. THE PARK - DAY

Chantel is sitting on a bench at the park relaxing and
enjoying the fresh breeze.

CHANTEL
Thank you, Lord, for a beautiful day.

ANDREW, 30, and CAYLEE, 7, walk towards the bench Chantel is
sitting on, and they both join her.

ANDREW
The ice cream truck should be here in
a minute Caylee.

CAYLEE
I want some strawberry ice cream.

ANDREW
If they have it, I will get it for
you.

CAYLEE
If they don't have it then you have to
punch them in the face.

Chantel overhears the conversation between Andrew and Caylee
and she laughs.

ANDREW
I'm sorry ma'am my daughter can be a
bit of a character.

CHANTEL
Oh, she's fine.

ANDREW
My name is Andrew.

CHANTEL
I'm Chantel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW

Wait a second, aren't you a real estate agent?

CHANTEL

Yes, I am.

ANDREW

My cousin Jake just bought a house from you a few weeks ago.

CHANTEL

Oh okay, How is he liking the house?

ANDREW

He loves it, in a matter of fact he's having a family get-together this weekend at his place.

CHANTEL

That's good to hear.

CAYLEE

Daddy, I'm ready to go home.

ANDREW

I thought we were waiting for the ice cream truck to come.

CAYLEE

We can just go buy some at the grocery store.

ANDREW

Okay babygirl.

Andrew and Caylee get up from the bench.

CHANTEL

It was nice meeting you both.

ANDREW

It was nice meeting you too Chantel.

Andrew and Caylee walk off.

INT. IMAGINETALE STUDIOS - WRITERS ROOM - DAY

Nyla and the Writers are seated at the table discussing script changes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WRITER #1

Do you guys think we should take out the part about Lorenzo sucking a guy off in the bathroom?

WRITER #2

I don't think we should.

WRITER #3

Most gay guys I know are freaky so I think we should keep it in the script.

NYLA

I think that we should take it out because this isn't a porno.

WRITER #2

Nyla, you do know that teens have sex right?

NYLA

Yes, I know that.

WRITER #2

Then what the hell is your problem?

WRITER #3

For crying out loud, Nyla just admit that you're homophobic.

NYLA

I'm a Christian, and I just wanted to make content that Christian people could watch.

WRITER #2

Nyla, you can always write a Christian tv show, but this show right here is for teens and worldly people.

WRITER #3

Nyla, you need to stop caring about what the Christian community says. Half of the people in the church are gay and hiding it.

WRITER #2

He's right.

NYLA

I'm tripping, let's just continue with
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYLA (CONT'D)
the revision process.

WRITER #2
Thank you.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Some TEENS are seated in a booth, and Manny is standing at their table taking their orders.

MANNY
What would you all like to drink?

TEEN #1
I would like a coke.

MANNY
Okay.

Manny is writing the drink orders on a notepad.

TEEN #2
I want a pink lemonade.

TEEN #3
Get me a Pepsi.

TEEN #4
I want ice tea.

MANNY
Okay, so I have down a Coke, pink lemonade, a Pepsi, and an ice tea.

TEEN #1
That's correct.

MANNY
I will be back with your drinks shortly.

Manny walks off and goes to the kitchen area of the diner. Donald enters, and then he goes to sit at a table.

Linda goes to stand in front of all the customers with a megaphone in her hand.

LINDA
(into megaphone)
It's 6:00, and it's Friday everyone,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA (CONT'D)
and that means free milkshakes, so if
you want one let one of the waiters
know.

Linda then makes her way back to the kitchen area.

DONALD
(to himself)
Where the hell is this man?

Donald takes his cellphone out, and then he texts Detective Davison.

A CHYRON appears above Donald's head as he texts:

Donald: "Detective Davison are you still coming to the diner?"

Detective Davison: "I forgot to inform you that plans have changed, and I will not be needing your assistance anymore."

Donald: "Did I do something wrong?"

Detective Davison: No you didn't do anything wrong, but thanks for your time and have a good night."

Donald places his cellphone back in his pocket.

DONALD
(shouts)
Damn it!

Simone enters, she sees Donald sitting alone then she approaches him.

SIMONE
Donald, what's going on?

DONALD
He's not coming.

SIMONE
What do you mean he's not coming?

DONALD
I text him, and he told me that the deal was off.

SIMONE
Did he say why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONALD

Simone let's both just go home.

Donald gets up from the table.

SIMONE

Okay.

Donald, and Simone exit the diner.

ACT THREE

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andrew is sitting up in bed reading a book called "Finding love again: The Widower".

ANDREW

(reading text from the book)
If you are a widower finding love again is possible. Before you try to get back into the dating game make sure you have grieved your passed loved one.

Andrew places the book face down on his nightstand, then he picks up his cell phone and calls someone.

JAKE (V.O.)

Hello?

ANDREW

(into phone)
Hey, Jake man how are you doing?

JAKE (V.O.)

I'm doing good bro, how about you?

ANDREW

I'm doing good man.

JAKE (V.O.)

That's good to hear.

ANDREW

So man I was calling to tell you that I ran into Chantel at the park today.

JAKE (V.O.)

Talking about my real estate agent?

ANDREW

Yeah, man.

JAKE (V.O.)

She fine ain't she?

ANDREW

Yeah, she's beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAKE (V.O.)

So what you want me to do hook y'all up or something?

ANDREW

Is she single?

JAKE (V.O.)

Man, I don't know. Why didn't you ask her?

ANDREW

I didn't have time to.

JAKE (V.O.)

Listen man call her office number and just ask her.

ANDREW

Man, that sounds crazy.

JAKE (V.O.)

Well die alone, and be sex-deprived then.

ANDREW

Alright man, I'll call her office number.

JAKE (V.O.)

Alright man, talk to you later.

ANDREW

Alright.

The phone calls end, and then Andrew places his cell phone back on the nightstand and turns the lights off.

INT. NYLA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nyla is sitting on the couch eating Oreo ice cream and watching the tv.

CLOSE UP - TV SET

A news program is playing.

NEWS ANCHOR

(on TV)

The tv series "Epic Tales" has just added a new character to the show to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
represent the LGBTQ community.

NYLA
(shocked)
Oh my god!

CO- ANCHOR
(on TV)
I believe that the series will gain
more viewers now since they're adding
a person from the LGBTQ community.

NEWS ANCHOR
(on TV)
I couldn't agree more.

Nyla grabs the remote and turns the tv off.

NYLA
(to herself)
Yep, the church is going to drag the
hell out of me.

INT. DONALD'S CAR - NIGHT

Donald is seated in the driver's seat looking frustrated, and
next to him on the passenger side seat is Simone.

SIMONE
Donald do you want to talk about it?

DONALD
Simone, I just don't get it, When I
try to do the right thing it seems
like everything just goes wrong.

SIMONE
Well, Donald sometimes things just
don't work out.

DONALD
The black community has had it so
rough, and I just wanted to make a
difference for once.

SIMONE
You did do something to make a
difference, you didn't take the money
and if that isn't making a difference
then I don't know what is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONALD

That's funny coming from you.

SIMONE

Why do you say that?

DONALD

Well, you thought that I was an uncle tom.

SIMONE

Well, when we're at work you try to suck up to the boss, and then you try to embarrass me in front of everyone when you know a majority of our coworkers are white.

DONALD

First of all, I'm just doing my job, and second I just like messing with you.

SIMONE

Well, Donald Duck I don't play like that.

DONALD

Will you please stop calling me Donald Duck.

SIMONE

(jokingly)

Well, would you like for me to call you Daffy Duck instead?

DONALD

You know what get out of my car.

Simone laughs a bit.

SIMONE

I'm just messing with you.

DONALD

It's good to know that you're not so uptight all the time.

SIMONE

I'm fun when I want to be.

Donald stares into Simone's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONALD
You're so beautiful.

Simone becomes tensed from hearing Donald call her "beautiful".

SIMONE
(brushes Donald off)
Thanks for the ride Donald, and have a
goodnight.

DONALD
But Simone I...

Simone rushes and opens the car door, and exits.

Donald bangs his head against the steering wheel out of frustration.

DONALD
Ugh! My brother was right these women
ain't shit.

FADE TO BLACK.